

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 15, line 2, replace "gycloproteins" with --glycoproteins--.

Claim 34, line 1, replace "and" with --of an--.

Claim 35, line 2, replace "gycloproteins" with --glycoproteins--.

REMARKS

As set forth above, claims 15, 34 and 35 have been amended to correct certain typographical errors. Claims 14-38 remain pending.

In response to the Office action dated October 23, 1997, Applicants respectively submit that the identification of the claims in Groups 1 and 2 in the Office action dated October 23, 1997 appears to be inconsistent with the classification of the claims into Groups 1, 2 and 3 in the Office action dated June 18, 1997. In the June 18, 1997 Office action, the Examiner classified the claims into three groups: Group 1 (claims 14-23 and 34); Group 2 (claims 24-28); and Group 3 (claims 29-33). The Examiner did not consider claims 35-38 in the Office action of June 18, 1997. However, as stated in the response to the Office action of June 18, 1997, since each of claims 35-38 depend from claim 34 and since claim 34 was originally identified as belonging to Group 1, it is believed that the Examiner would have designated claims 35-38 as Group 1 claims. Accordingly, based on the classification of the claims into Groups 1, 2 and 3 adopted by the

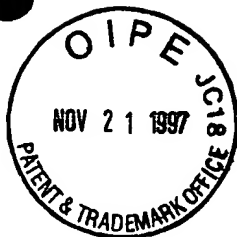
Examiner in the Office action of June 18, 1997, Groups 1 and 2 should comprise claims 14-28 and claims 34-38.

Applicants also respectively submit that the application should not be restricted to Groups 1 and 2 claims (claims 14-28 and 34-38) or Group 3 claims (claims 29-33), but rather, examination of the application should proceed in respect of claims 14-38. There are many ways of administering drugs to treat various parts of the body. In the case of cataracts, and in particular aftercataracts, a convenient and readily available means of administering a drug to the lens cells is the implantation of a lens implant coated with the drug. This method is unique to the treatment of ocular disease but is analogous to, for example, inserting a slow release pellet of a drug under the skin that is used in the treatment of certain other conditions.

The inclusion of Group 3 claims in this application is analogous to the inclusion of claims to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising an active ingredient and a carrier in a patent application also containing claims to methods of treating a disease comprising and administering that active ingredient to a subject.

Cataracts are diseases of the eye and are diagnosed and treated by ophthalmologists. Ophthalmologists skilled in the art of diagnosing and treating cataracts would be expected to be familiar with treatment of cataracts by surgical removal of the lens cells and the

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implantation of a replacement lens within the remaining lens capsule. As stated on page 1, lines 16-19 of the specification, the most commonly used treatment for cataracts is surgical removal of the lens cells and subsequent implantation of a synthetic replacement lens capsule.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 14-38 should be examined in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/ksm

10877 Wilshire Blvd., Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel. No. (310) 824-5555
Fax No. (310) 824-9696